



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
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TO: CELIA ZAVALA  
Executive Officer  
Board of Supervisors

Attention: Agenda Preparation

FROM: ADRIENNE M. BYERS  
Litigation Cost Manager  
Executive Office

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "AMB", is written over the printed name and title of Adrienne M. Byers.

RE: **Item for the Board of Supervisors' Agenda**  
**County Claims Board Recommendation**  
**Larry Trujillo v. County of Los Angeles, et al.**  
**United States District Court Case Number 2:14-cv-05431**

Attached is the Agenda entry for the Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation regarding the above-referenced matter. Also attached is the Case Summary and the Summary Corrective Action to be made available to the public.

It is requested that this recommendation be placed on the Board of Supervisors' agenda.

AMB:ds

Attachments

## Board Agenda

### MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation: Authorize settlement of the matter entitled Larry Trujillo v. County of Los Angeles, et al., United States District Court Case Number 2:14-cv-05431, in the amount of \$199,999.99, and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Sheriff's Department's budget.

This lawsuit arises from injuries plaintiff allegedly sustained while in custody of the Sheriff's Department.

## **CASE SUMMARY**

### **INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION**

CASE NAME	Larry Trujillo v. County of Los Angeles
CASE NUMBER	CV 14-05431 PSG (MRWx)
COURT	United States District Court
DATE FILED	October 16, 2014
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Los Angeles Sheriff's Department
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 199,999.99
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Greg W. Garrotto Law Offices of Garrotto & Garrotto
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Narbeh Bagdasarian  County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>From June 2011 to July 2014, Larry Trujillo was at the Correctional Treatment Care facility of Los Angeles County Sheriff Department ("LASD"). Mr. Trujillo was a quadriplegic due to injuries he suffered when he exchanged gunfire with homeowner during a burglary. The homeowner died from his injuries and Mr. Trujillo was subsequently convicted of first degree murder.</p> <p>While in LASD's custody, Mr. Trujillo developed some neurological and skin complications. He filed a lawsuit against the County and some of the LASD nursing and medical providers. Mr. Trujillo alleged that the care provided to him caused or contributed to the complications which he suffered.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 547,062
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 52,042



## Summary Corrective Action Plan

The intent of this form is to assist departments in writing a corrective action plan summary for attachment to the settlement documents developed for the Board of Supervisors and/or the County of Los Angeles Claims Board. The summary should be a specific overview of the claims/lawsuits' identified root causes and corrective actions (status, time frame, and responsible party). This summary does not replace the Corrective Action Plan form. If there is a question related to confidentiality, please consult County Counsel.

Date of incident/event:	March 2011 to July 2014
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p><b><u>Larry Trujillo v. County of Los Angeles</u></b> Summary Corrective Action Plan</p> <p>On June 15, 2011 the Downey Police Department arrested Plaintiff, Larry Trujillo, for a warrant for a violation of Penal Code §187. Plaintiff was subsequently transferred to the Inmate Reception Center (IRC) and placed into the custody of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.</p> <p>Plaintiff arrived with a personal, motorized wheelchair issued by Rancho Los Amigos Rehabilitation Center. Due to security concerns and standard practice at the time, Plaintiff's wheelchair was placed into property. Plaintiff was issued a standard Medical Services Bureau (MSB) manual wheelchair in place of his personal motorized wheelchair.</p> <p>On June 16, 2011, Plaintiff was assigned Correctional Treatment Center (CTC) housing. CTC is a hospital rated jail facility designed for the in-patient treatment of individuals with complicated, chronic medical and/or mental health concerns. In Plaintiff's case he was totally dependent for all activities of daily living.</p> <p>Between June 16, 2011 and July 24, 2014, Plaintiff was housed and treated at CTC, with intermittent trips to the Los Angeles County/USC Medical Center hospital ward.</p> <p>On July 2, 2014, Plaintiff was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison for 1st degree murder. Plaintiff was subsequently transferred to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), Wasco State Prison, on July 24, 2014.</p>

1. Briefly describe the root cause(s) of the claim/lawsuit:

The following departmental root causes were identified:

- The failure to provide Plaintiff with their personal motorized wheelchair

2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:  
(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

1). Wheelchairs for Paraplegic and Quadriplegic Inmates Policy – The Department created a policy specific to wheelchairs for Paraplegic and Quadriplegic individuals. This policy, amongst other changes, requires personnel to complete an Arrestee Medical Appliance Clearance Record. This record provides accountability and oversight of the medical appliance (wheelchair) review and approval process, requiring both CHS and the facility Watch Commander to justify their decisions and actions with respect to wheelchairs.

2) ADA-Related Requests and Grievances - Recognizing the sensitivity and complexities of ADA-related requests and grievances, the Department created a stand-alone policy on how to handle ADA-related requests and grievances (including wheelchairs).

Any request or grievance which is clearly ADA-related shall be routed to a designated facility ADA coordinator or, if the request cannot be handled by facility, the Custody Services Division ADA Coordinator. ADA-related requests are entered and tracked separately into the Custody Automated Reporting and Tracking System (CARTS).

3) Custody Division ADA Coordinator - This single point of contact was created to interfacing with Department staff and CHS staff to ensure that individuals with ADA needs are receiving reasonable accommodations as prescribed by CHS, review, investigate, and resolve ADA-related grievances, and provide training to Department staff working in units that house individuals with mobility impairments

The ADA Coordinator is empowered to make recommendations regarding reasonable accommodations and has the authority to bring issues to the attention of Department executives (including, without limitation, the respective Chiefs of Custody Services Divisions).

3. Are the corrective actions addressing Department-wide system issues?

- ☒ Yes – The corrective actions address Department-wide system issues.  
☐ No – The corrective actions are only applicable to the affected parties.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator)

Tania E. Plunkett, Commander  
Custody Services Division - General Population

Signature:



Date:

10-19-22

Name: (Department Head)

Margarita Velazquez, Chief  
Custody Services Division - Specialized Programs

Signature:



Date:

10/24/2022

**Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY**

Are the corrective actions applicable to other departments within the County?

- ☐ Yes, the corrective actions potentially have County-wide applicability.  
☒ No, the corrective actions are applicable only to this Department.

Name: (Risk Management Inspector General)

Destiny Castro

Signature:



Date:

10/28/2022